

Message Text

SECRET

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44

ACTION ARA-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-09

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 DODE-00 RSR-01 INRE-00 /047 W

----- 035108

P 271907 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9199

S E C R E T CARACAS 2596

LIMDIS NOFORN

EO 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PINT, XM, VE

SUBJECT: ALLEGED MILITARY COUP PLOTTING

REF: STATE 46337

1. LAST NIGHT COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE VENEZUELAN ARMY SUCRE FIGARELA CALLED ON ME AND I INFORMED HIM IN VERY GENERAL TERMS THAT WORD HAD REACHED US OF PLOTTING AMONG JUNIOR ARMY OFFICERS LOOKING TOWARD A COUP D' ETAT WHICH MIGHT TAKE PLACE ANY TIME BETWEEN MARCH AND JUNE, INVOLVING PERHAPS AS MANY AS 5,000 MEN. I TOLD GENERAL SUCRE THAT I PERSONALLY DID NOT KNOW THE IDENTITY OF THE PLOTTERS BUT HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT NONE WAS HIGHER IN RANK THAN LIEUTENANT COLONEL, WITH OTHERS MORE JUNIOR IN RANK. FROM SUCH INFORMATION AS HAD REACHED ME, IT SEEMED THAT THE PLOT WAS QUITE AMATEURISH IN THAT IT CONTEMPLATED INITITAL UPRISINGS IN REMOTE DIVISIONAL HEADQUARTERS SUCH AS BARQUISIMETO AND POSSIBLY MARACAIBO. THE PRETEXT FOR THE UPRISING/ CERTAIN DISCONTENT WITHIN THE SOCIAL STRUCTURE OF VENEZUELA/ SEEMED PARTICULARLY UNCONVINCING SINCE MOST VENEZUELANS SEEMED TO FEEL QUITE COMFORTABLE WITH THE PRESENT POLITICAL SITUATION.

2. GENERAL SUCRE SAID THAT IN AN ELECTION YEAR RUMORS OF POSSIBLE MILITARY UPRISINGS USUALLY SURFACED AND HE WAS NOT SURPRISED AT THIS REPORT. HOWEVER, HE WAS WARMLY GRATEFUL
SECRET

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FOR THE INFORMATION I WAS ABLE TO PASS ON AND SAID THAT HE
WOULD TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS TO KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON
POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENTS.

3. I STRESSED THAT THIS EMBASSY HAD CATEGORICALLY REKING
AND TANNER CRAB

C. REVIEW METHODS OF COLLECTION OF DATA FOR (B)

D. REVIEW DATA COLLECTED ON MEASUREMENTS OF KING AND
TANNER CRABS

E. REVIEW METHODS OF COLLECTION OF DATA FOR (D)

F. COLLECT DATA TO ESTABLISH INDEPENDENT AND COMPARATIVE
ESTIMATES OF THE CATCH OF KING AND TANNER CRABS

G. COLLECT DATA TO ESTABLISH INDEPENDENT AND COMPARATIVE
ESTIMATES OF SIZE COMPOSITION OF KING AND TANNER CRABS

H. BOARD CATCHER BOATS TO OBSERVE SORTING OF SOFT SHELL,
FEMALE AND SMALL CRABS.

3. WE HOPE ACCOMMODATIONS CAN BE MADE FOR ABOVE REQUIRE-
MENTS THAT WILL CAUSE A MINIMUM OF DISRUPTION TO USUAL
PROCESSING AND FISHING OPERATIONS. SINCE JAPANESE CRAB
FLEET IS ALREADY IN BERING SEA ARRANGEMENTS NEED BE MADE
ASAP. ROGERS

UNCLASSIFIED

NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** LIMDIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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